

Bicyclists' Rights and Responsibilities

The bicycle has been legally considered a vehicle in North Carolina since 1937. Thus bicyclists have full rights and responsibilities on the roadway and are subject to the regulations governing the operation of a motor vehicle, where applicable.

Bicyclists' Rights

- The bicyclist has a right to ride on any state maintained road, except roads of the Interstate Highway system and other fully-controlled access highways.
- While a bicyclist should ride as far to the right as practicable, a bicyclist may ride well out into the traffic lane under the following conditions:
 - 1) if he or she can maintain the same speed as other vehicles on the roadway;
 - 2) if the right-hand edge of the roadway is in poor condition or is littered with debris.
- A bicyclist is not required to ride on the shoulder, since the shoulder is not legally defined as part of the roadway.
- A bicyclist may choose to make a left turn from the appropriate lane, like a vehicle, or may dismount and walk the bicycle across the intersection, like a pedestrian.

Bicyclists' Responsibilities

- North Carolina traffic laws require the rider of a bicycle to:
 - 1) ride on the right, in the same direction as other moving traffic;
 - 2) obey all traffic signs and signals, including stop and yield signs and one-way directional signs;
 - 3) use signals to communicate intended movements;
 - 4) yield to pedestrians and emergency vehicles;
 - 5) equip the bicycle with a front lamp visible from 300 feet and a rear reflector or lamp which is visible from a distance of 200 feet at night;
- Bicyclists should ride predictably and courteously to keep traffic moving safely and to avoid accidents.